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TAGS: TBIO KFLU ECON PREL SOCI CASC EAGR MX GM  
SUBJECT: GERMANY H1N1 UPDATE: 1,818 CONFIRMED CASES

REF: A) Berlin 880, B) Berlin 876 and previous.

¶1. (U) SUMMARY: The number of H1N1 infections in Germany rose by 263 cases to a total of 1,818 on July 22. The majority of new infections occurred abroad, mainly during travel to Spain. German companies prepare for the new virus. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (U) The National Reference Center for Influenza at the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) announced 263 new laboratory-confirmed cases of H1N1 in Germany in its July 22 press briefing. This increases the total number of confirmed cases to 1,818. New cases were distributed among fourteen federal states: Lower-Saxony (96), North Rhine-Westphalia (60), Baden-Wuerttemberg (34), Hesse (16), Rhineland-Palatinate (11), Berlin(9), Saarland (9), Thuringia (7), Saxony (7), Hamburg (4), Brandenburg (3), Schleswig-Holstein (3), Bremen (2), and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (2). The majority of new infections occurred abroad, mainly during travel to Spain.

¶3. (U) North Rhine-Westphalia remains the German state with the highest number of virus cases with a total of 603 followed by Lower-Saxony (422) and Baden-Wuerttemberg (220 cases). Only 30 percent (539) of all confirmed infections in Germany have resulted from domestic transmission.

German companies prepare for an outbreak

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¶4. (U) Media reports indicate that German companies are preparing for the pandemic and taking precautionary measures to protect employees against the virus. Many companies, including car manufacturer Daimler and insurer Allianz, have increased their stockpiles of antiviral medication. In addition, some companies such as steel giant Thyssen-Krupp reportedly established a crisis management task force. Precautionary measures also include distributing H1N1 information brochures to employees and booking direct flights for business trips to avoid unnecessary stops at airports.

BRADTKE